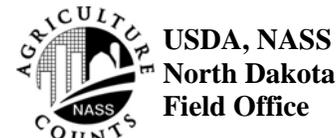


# NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



Cooperating With:  
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,  
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)  
and  
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER  
INFORMATION CENTER

Released: March 31, 2008  
For Month Ending: March 30, 2008  
ND-CW1308

**General:** Mild weather, particularly in the western part of the state, produced favorable calving and lambing conditions during March, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Reporters in the western districts reported that moisture was needed as concerns remain for this year's crop. Statewide, snow cover was 0.5 inch on March 30, compared with 0.3 inch last year. The northeastern and northwestern districts reported the most snow cover with 2.3 inches and 1.2 inches, respectively.

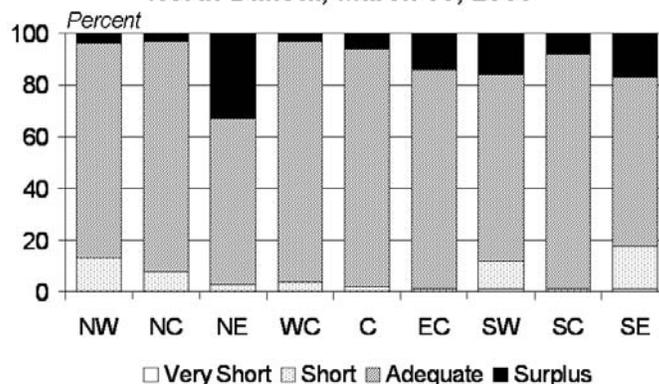
Producers were busy working on machinery, cleaning seed, spreading fertilizer and attending to calving and lambing. Primary and secondary roads were rated 96 percent open, 3 difficult and 1 closed. Road conditions were 1 percent drifted, 3 icy, 11 muddy and 85 dry.

**Crops:** The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 14, a week ahead of last year. The expected starting dates ranged from April 4 in the southwest district to April 22 in the northeastern district. The statewide five-year (2003-2007) average starting date is April 17.

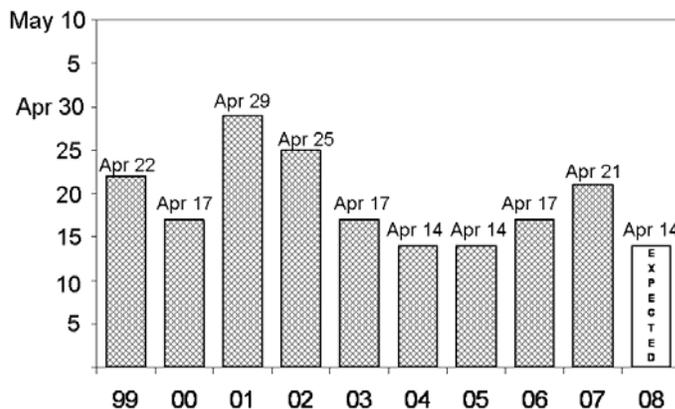
**Livestock:** Calving and lambing were 45 and 52 percent complete, respectively. Sixty-three percent of sheep shearing is complete. Cow conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 12 fair, 71 good and 16 excellent. Calf conditions were rated 13 percent fair, 68 good and 19 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 12 fair, 69 good and 17 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 10 fair, 72 good and 17 excellent.

**Livestock (cont.):** Hay and forage supplies were rated 7 percent short, 82 adequate and 11 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 10 short, 82 adequate and 7 surplus. Pastures and ranges remain dormant across the state.

Hay and Forage Supplies by District  
North Dakota, March 30, 2008



Average Start Date for Fieldwork  
North Dakota, 1999-2008



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**Weather:** Overall, March had below to near normal temperatures with closer to normal temperatures occurring in the western half of the state and below normal temperatures occurring in the eastern half of the state. Also, March had below normal precipitation statewide with the central region of the state seeing the least amount of precipitation. March started off with a cold snap that brought negative teens and twenties to most of the state and ended with highs in the 40s to 60s melting most of the snow and ice that fell over the winter. The most significant storms this month were March 21-22 and March 29. The system on March 21-22 brought precipitation to the southern and eastern regions of the state, and the storm on March 29 brought a wintry mix to the western half of the state. Moderate to severe drought conditions are still present in the western half of the state.

**Outlook, April:** April looks like it will start off with below normal precipitation and near average temperatures due to lack of major storm systems moving through the state the first part of April. There is the chance of snow Monday in the southern regions of the state, but overall the precipitation amounts will be light. The second week temperatures will be below normal, but precipitation amounts will be above normal, especially in the western half of the state. This would provide much needed precipitation to the western half of the state that is under moderate to severe drought conditions. Overall, the state will see near normal temperatures and near normal to above average precipitation.

TEMPERATURE, March 1-30, 2008

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm <sup>1/</sup>
	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F
NORTHWEST				
Bowbells	54	-23	26	1
Williston	54	-8	32	3
Mohall	57	-23	25	0
Minot	56	-16	28	0
NORTH CENTRAL				
Baker	55	-18	24	1
Bottineau	58	-29	22	-2
Rugby	56	-25	23	-3
NORTHEAST				
Cando	51	-27	19	-9
Cavalier	43	-20	18	-5
Forest River	43	-19	20	-6
Grand Forks	42	-22	19	-7
Langdon	39	-23	16	-4
St. Thomas	42	-25	18	-8
WEST CENTRAL				
Hazen	63	-12	29	-1
Turtle Lake	59	-12	28	1
Watford City	62	-10	32	-1
CENTRAL				
Carrington	51	-17	25	-1
Harvey	55	-18	26	-3
Jamestown	52	-13	25	-3
Robinson	54	-19	26	-3
Streeter	56	-13	28	2
EAST CENTRAL				
Dazey	45	-19	22	-4
Fargo	44	-16	21	-6
Hillsboro	43	-25	17	-9
SOUTHWEST				
Beach	61	-3	32	0
Bowman	61	-5	32	2
Dickinson	63	-7	31	1
Hettinger	65	-3	33	3
SOUTH CENTRAL				
Mandan	62	-11	30	2
Linton	61	-8	31	2
SOUTHEAST				
Edgeley	56	-11	28	1
Oakes	51	-17	26	-1
Wyndmere	45	-20	21	-6

<sup>1/</sup>Normal is the 1971-2000 average. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.